

a2  
cont. said recess being of greater depth than the length of said projection, such that when the panel is joined to a like panel said elongate projection end termination does not contact said elongate recess bottom surface, leaving an open space therebetween, [the assembled pair combine] to afford a demarcation line in the form of an elongate space which extends inwardly from the respective ends of each opposing side face.

2. (Amended) A panel assembly comprised of a plurality of like panel pieces joined to one another in matching engagement and secured to a support structure, each piece consisting essentially of a front side, a rear side, a pair of opposing side faces and a pair of opposing edge faces for interlockingly engaging the edge faces of a like panel, wherein each panel piece is formed such that

one edge face of said pair of opposing edge faces [being formed as] including an elongate projection with an end termination and,

[the] a remaining edge face of said pair of opposing edge faces [being formed as] comprising an elongate recess including a bottom surface for receiving said projection;

said recess being of greater depth than the length of said projection, such that when the panel is joined to a like panel said elongate projection end termination does not contact said elongate recess bottom surface, leaving an open space therebetween, [the assembled pair combine] to afford a demarcation line in the form of an elongate space which extends inwardly from the respective ends of each opposing side face.

a3  
12. (Amended) A panel piece comprised of a front side, a rear side and a pair of opposing edge faces for interlockingly engaging the edge faces of a like panel, said panel piece comprising

[one] a first edge face of said pair of opposing edge faces being formed as a tongue between a front edge flange and a rear edge flange;

[the] a second edge face of said pair of opposing edge faces being formed as a groove comprised of a rear leg, a front leg and a base member, said rear leg being greater in length than said front leg;

said tongue being insertable within said groove, the depth of [which is] said groove along the rear leg being greater than the length of said tongue, so that in their assembled mode the rear edge flange of said first edge faces rests upon said rear leg of said second edge face so as to form an open space [is formed] between the tongue end and the base of the groove.

a3  
cont

13. (Amended) A panel assembly comprised of a plurality of like-panel pieces joined to one another in matching engagement and secured to a support structure, each panel piece consisting essentially of a front side, a rear side and a pair of opposing edge faces for interlockingly engaging the edge faces of a like panel, wherein each panel piece is formed as comprising

[one] a first edge face of said pair of opposing edge faces being formed as a tongue between a front edge flange and a rear edge flange;

[the] a second edge face of said pair of opposing edge faces being formed as a groove comprised of a rear leg, a front leg and a base member, said rear leg being greater in length than said front leg;

said tongue being insertable within said groove, the depth of [which is] said groove along the rear leg being greater than the length of said tongue, so that in their assembled mode the rear edge flange of said first edge faces rests upon said rear leg of said second edge face so as to form an open space [is formed] between the tongue end and the base of the groove.

a4

17. (Amended) A panel piece for constructing a paneled assembly made up of any number of such panel pieces disposed atop one another, said panel piece comprising:

a front side and a rear side;

two opposing edge faces, one edge face being formed with a beveled recess which extends from [one] said front side to said rear side of the panel piece [to the other], said recess being defined by a projecting first flange whose outer wall is coextensive with the rear side of said panel piece;

a second edge face of said two opposing edge faces, also with a beveled recess which extends from said front side to said rear side and which is matching of the beveled recess formed in the first edge face, said recess being defined by